

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01785 301721Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 IO-13 NSCE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 DODE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NEAE-00 /056 W
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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7436
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S E C R E T DAMASCUS 1785

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS LE
SUBJECT: MARCH 30 MEETING WITH ASSAD - US MILITARY ASSISTANCE
TO LEBANON

REF: A) DAMASCUS 1694 B) STATE 78292

1. DURING MARCH 30 MEETING WITH ASSAD, I RAISED SUBJECT OF
SENDING US TEAM TO LEBANON IN CONNECTION OUR MILITARY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. REMINDED PRESIDENT SECRETARY HAD
DISCUSSED WITH HIM IN THEIR FIRST MEETING LAST FEBRUARY OUR
PLANS TO ASSIST GOL REBUILD A SOUND AND LOYAL NATIONAL ARMY.
SAID OUR PROGRAM IS MOVING AHEAD. IN THE NEAR FUTURE,
POSSIBLY IN NEXT FEW DAYS, WE WILL BE SENDING A TEAM TO HELP
DECIDE THE BEST USE OF THE MONIES CONGRESS HAD ALLOCATED.
ASSAD EXPRESSED SHARP INTEREST IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR
THIS MISSION, AND WHETHER ITS DESPATCH HAD BEEN PROMISED
PRIOR TO THE ISRAELI INVASION. I SAID THIS WAS THE CASE.
TEAM PLANNED STAY ONLY A FEW WEEKS. WE HAD NO INTENTION
OF ESTABLISHING TRAINING PROGRAM OR ANY MILITARY
MISSION IN LEBANON. DOUBTED WE INTENDED ISSUE
ANY PUBLICITY ABOUT TEAM'S ARRIVAL. ASSAD ASKED WHAT
EQUIPMENT WE INTENDED TO SUPPLY AND PARTICULARLY WHETHER
TANKS WERE INCLUDED. REPLIED I KNEW APCS AND M-16S
WERE ON LIST, AS WELL AS UNIFORMS AND TENTS. BEYOND THESE ITEMS,
SECRET

SECRET

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I WAS UNINFORMED. THE MISSION WAS COMING TO PIN DOWN GOL'S
PRECISE REQUIREMENTS. SAID WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO KEEP HIS
GOVERNMENT ADVISED ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THIS PROGRAM WHEN
DECISIONS ARE REACHED.

2. COMMENT: I THINK IT WAS MOST USEFUL TO ALERT
ASSAD TO OUR THINKING ABOUT TEAM BEFORE ITS ARRIVAL CAME

TO HIS ATTENTION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

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